

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8786

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 3257

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, NZ

SUBJECT: SUBJ: NEW ZEALAND'S PRIME MINISTER CLARIFIES NZ'S

POSITION ON BRITAIN'S ASSOCIATION WITH EC

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7784

1. SUMMARY: NEW ZEALAND'S PRIME MINISTER ROWLING RECENTLY
MADE IT CLEAR NZ IS NOT TAKING SIDES ON THE ISSUE OF UK MEMBER-
SHIP IN THE EC OR ITS POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL AS THIS WAS A DOMESTIC
U.K. MATTER. NZ'S CONCERN IS HOW THE CONDITIONS OF UK ENTRY OR
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WITHDRAWAL MIGHT AFFECT NZ TRADE. HE SAID NZ STILL REGARDS THE

UK MARKET AS TREMENDOUSLY IMPORTANT. NZ WANTS SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN PROTOCOL 18 BUT ITS BARGAINING POSITION IS NOT STRONG.
END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS RECENTLY REPORTED THAT EC VICE PRESIDENT SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO THIS AREA SAID IN BRUSSELS THAT AUSTRALIA AND NZ HAD ADAPTED THEIR TRADING PATTERNS TO DEAL WITH THE EC AS A WHOLE AND THAT NZ'S PLANS FOR TRADE DIVERSIFICATION AND EXPANSION WERE BASED ON ITS VIEW THAT THE ENLARGED COMMUNITY HAD COME TO STAY. THEREFORE, SHOULD BRITAIN PULL OUT OF THE EC NZ PLANS MIGHT NOT BE REVERSIBLE.

3. IN CONTRAST TO SOMAES' FINDINGS DURING HIS NZ VISIT, WHEN THE BRITISH TRADE SECRETARY, PETER SHORE, VISITED NEW ZEALAND IN EARLY AUGUST INTER ALIA TO ASCERTAIN NZ'S POSITION AS A CONTINUED SOURCE OF SUPPLY SHOULD BRITAIN WITHDRAW FROM THE EC, SHORE TOLD THE BRITISH TRADE ASSOCIATION HERE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THAT HE HAD POSITIVE ASSURANCES THAT NZ WAS STILL INTERESTED IN AND COULD SUPPLY THE UK MARKET.

4. NZ PRIME MINISTER ROWLING IN A MOVE TO AVOID NZ BEING DRAWN INTO THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY ON UK ASSOCIATION WITH THE

EC, WHEN ASKED ABOUT SOMAES' REMARKS, SAID NZ REGARDS BRITAIN'S ENTRY INTO OR POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EC AS A DOMESTIC UK ISSUE.

5. ROWLING STRESSED THAT NZ'S CONCERN WAS THE EFFECT ON NZ TRADE OF CONDITIONS OF UK ENTRY OR POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL. HE SAID NZ WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE CONDITIONS OF UK ENTRY, AND WAS FIGHTING FOR QUITE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN PROTOCOL 18.

6. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS VARIOUS NZ MINISTERS AND TRADE OFFICIALS HAVE VISITED EUROPE AND THE UK TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE TO NZ OF IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE EC FOR NZ EXPORTS. THE MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE, WALDING, ACKNOWLEDGED AFTER A RECENT TRIP TO EUROPE FOR THIS PURPOSE THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH NZ CAN DO TO PUSH ITS CASE.
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